

SITUATION REPORT NO. 15
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: June 26, 2000 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding – Due to a series of thunderstorms since June 12 and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Rainfall on June 19-20 caused damages to homes in northern Richland County. Water damages were reported in Helendale Township and the city of Christine. Crops in Helendale Township were also damaged.

In Cass County, floodwaters have receded from most roadways.

Nelson County officials report that the Sheyenne River continues to flow at flood stage levels. Crops in water-logged fields are deteriorating and those that were damaged by hail are molding. Pastureland is stressed and in short supply throughout most of the county. Homeowners have reported damages caused by water seepage and hail. A septic system at one home has collapsed.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army delivered clean up kits to Nelson County.

The Nelson County food pantry provided groceries and supplies to a family whose home is isolated by floodwaters.

The United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) sent a large truck with health kits, foods and diapers to the flood-impacted area. UMCOR has been sending teams of volunteers to the area to help with home repairs. The teams have towels, brooms, rakes, power washers, bleach, soap, gloves, scrubbing brushes, generators, crowbars and flood kits.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Ed Schafer today requested a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration from President Clinton for two Indian reservations and 18 counties. Entities included in this declaration are the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Tribal Reservations, as well as Benson, Bottineau, Cass, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, McHenry, McLean, Nelson, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Sheridan, Traill, Walsh and Wells Counties. A joint federal/state/local Preliminary Damage Assessment in these areas identified over \$47 million in public assistance damages. Actual recovery costs are expected to be much higher, once the recovery process begins. Estimated

requirements for individual assistance programs are as follows: temporary housing, 136 applicants for rental assistance and 1,067 applicants for home repairs; Individual and Family Grant Program, 800 applicants and \$1.2 million in grants; Disaster Unemployment Assistance, 3,800 applicants and \$4.5 million in benefits; and Small Business Administration, 1,101 loans and nearly \$18.3 million in loan approvals. The Governor has requested implementation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Individual Assistance Programs to include: the Individual and Family Grant Program, Disaster Housing, the Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He intends to implement the Individual and Family Grant Program. Doug Friez, Director of North Dakota Emergency Management, has been designated as the point of contact for the request.

Governor Schafer appointed Clare Carlson, his Agriculture Policy Director, to serve as liaison between government and the agriculture community. He will help coordinate disaster assistance to farmers and agri-businesses.

The N.D. Department of Health today announced it will provide residents of flooded counties and two Indian reservations free bacterial testing of private wells that may have been contaminated with floodwaters. The free testing will take place through August 31 for owners of private wells on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Spirit Lake Tribe reservations, as well as in the following counties: Barnes, Bottineau, Pembina, McHenry, Pierce, Benson, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Traill, Cass, Ransom and Kidder. In addition, residents of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Spirit Lake Tribe reservations may also receive the free testing.

The Nelson County Water Resource Board granted a request for an emergency de-watering project on a road where two residences were without emergency access. County officials obtained a 16-inch pump from the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) after submitting a request to North Dakota Emergency Management. County officials also authorized the use of a backhoe to clear a nearby ditch. Pumping efforts continued through the weekend.

Officials for Richland County and the city of Amenia in Cass County have issued emergency declarations because of overland flooding and heavy rainfall.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director